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Group Art Unit: 3627

Atty. Ref.: USUI-12N

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shoichiro Usui

RECEIVED

Serial No. : 09/731,170

AUG 28 2001

Filed : December 6, 2000

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

For : HIGH-PRESSURE METAL PIPE HAVING CONNECTING HEAD
AND METHOD OF FORMING THE CONNECTING HEAD
AS WELL AS SLEEVE WASHER FOR THE CONNECTING HEADAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231PETITION FOR ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION

Sir:

This Petition is submitted in response to the Notice of Omitted Items dated January 24, 2001. A copy of that Notice is attached.

The Notice asserts that Figures 5, 6, 7 and 8 "appear to have been omitted from the application". The Notice further explains that, if the applicant contends that the allegedly omitted items were in fact deposited with the non-provisional papers, then applicant should submit a Petition with evidence of such deposit.

The undersigned attorney for the applicant executed the transmittal document for the above-captioned application and directly oversaw the assembly of documents to be filed with the application. The undersigned worked with Janis van Akelijen in connection with the assembly of documents for filing with this application. Ms. van Akelijen is a legal secretary who has worked in this field for seven (7) years and has filed literally hundreds of applications. This law firm strictly follows a procedure with several checks on the completion of application documents submitted for filing, and particularly for applications that claim priority on a foreign application. This application,

and all other applications filed by the undersigned, are assembled by one of two legal secretaries familiar with the procedures of this office. The documents then are presented to the undersigned in their assembled form and with all documents that will be placed in the Express Mail envelope, including the postcard that identifies the items being submitted. The undersigned then conducts a final review of all items being submitted, including a page by page count of the textual portions of the application and a Figure by Figure review of each page of drawings. The Figures are cross checked with the Brief Description of Drawings in the application and with the representations made on the postcard. This procedure is carried out for every application filed by the undersigned, and I am certain it was carried out for this application as well.

Attached to this Petition is a complete copy of the application as filed, including all five (5) sheets of drawings and a copy of the date-stamped return postcard that identifies the materials submitted, including the five (5) sheets of drawings.

The Petitions Examiner is respectfully requested to take note of the fact that the allegedly missing sheets of drawings would have been the two last sheets of the assembled application. It is believed, therefore, that these sheets were somehow separated from the application within the Patent Office due to inadvertence. Accordingly, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is respectfully requested to grant this Petition and to accept the complete application, including the two (2) sheets with Figures 5-8, as being filed on December 6, 2000. Additionally, it is submitted that the attached documents evidence deposit of the entire application and, accordingly, a refund of the attached Petition fee should be credited to our Deposit Account No. 03-1030.

In the unlikely event that this Petition is not granted, the undersigned requests the Petitions Examiner to accept the application as originally filed. The

allegedly missing Figures 6-8 all relate to prior art, and it is believed that depictions of prior art structures could be added by Amendment. Furthermore, Figure 5 is an alternate embodiment of the structure shown in Figure 2, and the minor differences between Figures 2 and 5 are clearly described in the specification. Thus, it is believed that Figure 5 also could be added by Amendment. Of course, however, the fact that the allegedly missing Figures could be incorporated into the application by Amendment does not alter the assertions set forth above that Figures 5-8 were already submitted, and the applicant should be entitled to the filing date for those properly deposited parts of the application.

The undersigned hereby declares that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald E. Hespos

Atty. Reg. No. 30,066
Customer No. 001218
CASELLA & HESPOS
274 Madison Avenue - Suite 1703
New York, New York 10016
Tel. (212) 725-2450
Fax (212) 725-2452

Date: *Feb 1, 2001*

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE
Washington, D.C. 20231

REQUEST FOR PATENT FEE REFUND

1 Date of Request: 8/30/01 2 Serial/Patent # 09/731,170

3 Please refund the following fee(s):	4 PAPER NUMBER	5 DATE FILED	6 AMOUNT
Filing			\$
Amendment			\$
Extension of Time			\$
Notice of Appeal/Appeal			\$
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petition	4	2/5/01	\$ 130
Issue			\$
Cert. of Correction/Terminal Disc.			\$
Maintenance			\$
Assignment			\$
Other			\$
		7 TOTAL AMOUNT OF REFUND	\$ 130
		8 TO BE REFUNDED BY:	
		Treasury Check	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Overpayment		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit Deposit A/C #:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duplicate Payment		9 03 -- 1030	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Fee Due (Explanation):			

1/24/01 Notice was PTO error

11 REFUND REQUESTED BY:

TYPED/PRINTED NAME: Rebec Tang

TITLE: Attala Atty

SIGNATURE: Rebec Tang

PHONE: 703-308-0763

OFFICE:

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APPROVED: Alma Kelly

DATE: 8-31-01

Instructions for completion of this form appear on the back. After completion, attach white and yellow copies to the official file and mail or hand-carry to:

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Crystal Park One, Room 802B